'Rain alert' System

2718. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Rain Alert' system has been introduced in all the trains passing through Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether this proposal has also been introduced in the other parts of the country;

(d) by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) No, Sir. There is no system with nomenclature as 'Rain Alert' for the trains passing through the state of Tamil Nadu or elsewhere. However, there is well laid down procedure for precautions to be taken in case of heavy rains, floods, monsoons etc. On receipt of weather warnings from the Meteorological Department, precautionary steps like introduction of mobile patrolling/stationary watchmen on stretches/sections considered vlunerable are taken. In case any danger to Railway safety is apprehended, the patrolmen/watchmen take necessary steps to warn the train driver of approaching train by displaying signals or using detonators put on track. The system is uniformly followed on all the Zonal Railways.

Promotion to outstanding sportspersons

2719. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has not granted promotion or even increment to its outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen;

(b) if so, the details of cases, pending with his Ministry;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps taken to grant promotions or increments to the outstanding sportspersons serving the Railways?